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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/753,705

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Muhammad A. Ahmed

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07/19/2006

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EXAMINER

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/753,705

Applicant(s)

AHMED ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-28,35-41 and 45-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-28,35-41 and 45-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Claims 21-28,35-41,45-47 are pending. Claims 1-20,29-34,42-44 are cancelled.
2. This application claimed priority of 9/20/1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Klein

[6,631,398 B1].

3. As per claim 21, Klein discloses In a messaging system that provides clients with electronic messaging services, a method for organizing one or more replies to an electronic message, comprising the steps of:

assigning a unique identifier to the electronic message [Klein, assigning an ID to a message, col 6 lines 37-51]; and

using the unique identifier to associate the one or more replies with the electronic message [Klein, response message based upon a unique ID of the electronic message, col 11 lines 55-67].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22-28,35-41,45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein [6,631,398 B1] in view of Kelly et al [Kelly, 6,138,168].

4. As per claim 22, Klein discloses assigning a reply identifier to a first reply created by a recipient of the electronic message [Klein, response message based upon a unique ID of the electronic message, col 11 lines 55-67];

However Klein does not explicitly detail

using the reply identifier to associate, with the first reply, each of one or more subsequent replies created in response to the first reply.

In the same endeavor Kelly discloses the client-server messaging applications are handled by the defining of rules and their subsequent use [Kelly, col 10 lines 38-48] Therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the rules and subsequent use for send and reply message as taught by Kelly into the Klein's apparatus in order to utilize the message ID. Doing so would provide an efficient handling of error conditions and other criteria which necessitate different processing of different types of message [Kelly, col 2 lines 55-60]

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5. As per claim 23, Klein-Kelly disclose the step of separately presenting the electronic message and the one or more replies to a recipient [Klein, redundant message 615, Fig 6].

6. As per claim 24, Klein-Kelly disclose the step of separately presenting the electronic message, the first reply and the one or more subsequent replies to a recipient [Klein, redundant message 615, Fig 6].

7. As per claim 25, Klein-Kelly disclose the step of separately presenting the electronic message, the first reply, and the one or more subsequent replies comprises the step of presenting to the recipient a tree arrangement wherein the electronic message is a trunk, the first reply is a first-level branch depending from the trunk, and the one or more subsequent replies are second-level branches depending from the first-level branch [Klein, Fig 2B].

8. As per claim 26, Klein-Kelly disclose the method includes steps for distributing the electronic message to clients of a host system, comprising the steps of:

creating one or more distribution lists including each client of the host system who is a recipient of the electronic message [Klein, assigning an ID to a message, col 6 lines 37-51];

storing at least one copy of the electronic message at the host system [Klein, response message based upon a unique ID of the electronic message, col 11 lines 55-67]; and

using the one or more distribution lists to notify each client of the host system who is a recipient of the electronic message, such that the at least one copy of the electronic message is made available to each notified client [Klein, notifying, col 8 lines 17-33].

9. As per claim 27, Klein-Kelly disclose the method includes steps for distributing replies to the electronic message, comprising the steps of:

assigning a unique list identifier to the distribution list [Klein, assigning an ID to a message, col 6 lines 37-51; list, col 10 lines 6-17];

storing at least one copy of a reply created in response to the electronic message [Klein, response message based upon a unique ID of the electronic message, col 11 lines 55-67]; and

notifying each client who is a recipient of the reply using the unique list identifier, such that the at least one copy of the reply is made available to each client who is a recipient of the reply [Klein, notifying, col 8 lines 17-33].

10. As per claim 28, Klein-Kelly disclose the steps of: assigning a reply identifier to a first reply; and using the reply identifier to associate, with the first reply, each of one or

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more subsequent replies created in response to the first reply [Klein, redundant message 615, Fig 6].

11. Claims 35-41,45-47 contain the similar limitations set forth in claims 21-28.

Therefore claims 35-41,45-47 are rejected for the same rationale set forth in claims 21-28.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00AM- 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Andrew Caldwell*, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval IPAIRI system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thong Vu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2142

